

SITUATION REPORT NO. 8
INCIDENT NO. 97-003
DATE: January 18, 1997 TIME: 11:30 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Winter storms and blizzard conditions statewide.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: A N.D. National Guard member assigned to snow removal efforts received minor injuries on January 17 while loading a dozer onto a trailer. Five people were slightly injured in a four-vehicle accident in Dickey County that occurred during whiteout conditions of the January 15 blizzard.
3. DAMAGE: North Dakota continues to cope with problems created by harsh winter conditions. Snow accumulations of up to 60 inches still require an extensive response effort by local, state and military interests. Concerns still exist for: blocked access to livestock and feed supplies; milk dumping; wildlife deaths; snow-blocked roads, rail lines and airport runways; snow removal equipment breakdowns; limited fuel supplies; isolated farm families and the delivery of supplies to those families; damaged water lines; and structural damage to private and public buildings.

The North Dakota Stockmen's Association reported harsh winter conditions place 100,000 cattle at risk of dying.

Many North Dakotans living in remote areas have been without mail service since January 9 because of snow-blocked roads. The U.S. Postal Service reported that mail delivery in larger areas was disrupted for up to four days after the January 9 blizzard moved into the state. Service was disrupted again for up to two days because of the January 15 storm.

County emergency managers have received calls from farmers who are concerned that hogs are not included in the guidelines for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Emergency Feed Grain Donation Program. The N.D. Department of Agriculture is researching the problem. All persons with agricultural-related interests are advised to contact county Farm Service Agency offices for information and details.

Heavy snow caused the collapse of a roof of a Napoleon museum where antiques were housed.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Dickey County residents with four-wheel drive vehicles are transporting nursing home and hospital employees to and from work. Employees living out of town have been given shelter in private homes.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plans to establish its Disaster Field Office (DFO) at the Dacotah Foundation Building, 600 South Second Street, Bismarck, by January 22. Until then, staff will be based at temporary headquarters located at Fraine Barracks. The DFO will be staffed with FEMA and N.D. Division of Emergency Management staff and liaison personnel from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The N.D. National Guard snow removal missions expanded to 26 on January 18. The 26 missions are staffed by 120 Army Guard, six Air Guard and 18 Air Force personnel. Equipment includes 25 dozers, 23 tractor-trailers, 17 dump trucks, nine snow blowers, five loaders, and three pickups. Of those missions, which are under the direction of the National Guard, six are staffed by U.S. Air Force personnel. New missions activated on January 17 and 18 include: Emmons County, where crews are operating two snow blowers and one loader; and Sargent County, where one additional dozer has been assigned to assist National Guard operations already underway.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) reported N.D. Highways 3, 9, 11, 36 and 57 were reopened January 17. Trouble spots include N.D. Highway 24 and 1806. The N.D. DOT released four military snow blowers on January 17 and will release two additional military blowers on January 18 for reassignment to county road clearing operations. N.D. DOT crews are operating 24 rotary snow plows. As snow removal efforts progress, state transportation officials are urging district offices to contact contractors for assistance. To date, the N.D. DOT has engaged

12 contractors to assist with snow removal operations.

The Sioux County Emergency Manager directed a National Guard snow blower crew to plow a road so that a child in need of heart surgery could be transported to a medical center.

In Foster County, Dakota Central Telephone Co. is clearing telephone pads on rural roads where snow blowers have been assigned.

Additional Disaster or Emergency Declarations have been issued by the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, the City of Rugby, Billings County and Dunn County. To date, 51 counties, 12 cities and three Indian Reservations have issued declarations.

The Bowman County Emergency Manager reported that all county roads and 75 percent of township roads have been reopened.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The National Weather Service forecast for January 18 and 19 calls for highs ranging in the 30s to 40s with southwest winds of 10 to 15 miles per hour (mph). Dry and mild conditions are expected to extend through Tuesday.

No Situation Report will be issued January 19. The next Situation Report will be distributed January 20.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director